

Light Layers

Finding the perfect light is not going to solve all of your problems. The light you use to cut vegetables won't be the right light for a cocktail party just as the light you use for reading the newspaper is unlikely to be the right one for watching movies on the big screen TV. You need to look at what activities actually happen in a room and design layers of light using General, Accent and Task lighting accordingly. The idea is to give the lighting in your home as much flexibility as possible.



Take the kitchen for example. You will need a top layer of general lighting provided by overhead lighting. This will make the day to day, in and out activities possible. You will also need a middle layer of task lighting, utilizing [under cabinet](#) or other types of lights to highlight your work areas. And you should add a bottom layer of accent lighting to add sparkle to a china cabinet or for an ambience glow under the toe kick.

Using all three creates a flexibility with your lighting design to create just the right atmosphere, whether it is for preparing a seven course dinner, grabbing a quick brewski from the fridge or enjoying appetizers at a dinner party. And pay attention to the switches. Make sure you can turn the different layers independently as well as having the ability to light just certain areas of the room so that multiple environments can be created. Adding dimmer switches on the right lights gives you an even wider range of possibilities.